



LOOK  
INSIDE FOR  
DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

# The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

# EXCITER

September 2007

Issue No. 438

Important announcement: September's RARS general meeting will begin at 7pm. The topic is Advanced SKYWARN Spotter Training. All are welcome!

## Tune in the World

### Article by Virginia Enzor NC4VA, RARS Education Director & Tune in the World Coordinator

Tune in the World Day was held Saturday, August 25, from 10am-noon at the First Alliance Church on Buffaloe Road in Raleigh. Despite sweltering August temperatures, approximately 45 folks, including presenters, turned out for the affair.

The event was held as a follow-up to the conclusion of two recent RARS Technician License preparation classes. New hams and soon-to-be-licensed hams visited areas of interest to them, asked questions of the experts, and had the opportunity to get on the radio. Although primarily intended for new hams, quite a few experienced hams turned out and found things worthy of their attention as well.

Interest areas and presenters included the following:

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- HF Station, QSL Cards, and Morse Code: Chuck Littlewood K4HF and Hank Montgomery K4HM
- 10-Meter Station and Batteries: John Mayfield WA9SZL
- VHF Station: David Crawford KF4VXJ
- Mobile Installations and Handy Talkies: Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- ATV: Mark Freeze WD4KSE and Sam Freeze KI4FUD
- Antennas and QSL Cards: Max Bloodworth K04TV
- Digital Mode HF Station (RTTY and PSK31): Gene Armistead AI4GV
- Public Service Opportunities and Accompanying Equipment: Bill Cole KG4CXY

A big thank you goes to Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX for arranging the facilities! Thanks also go to Courtney Enzor KI4HOS who served as greeter and directed folks to areas of interest.

Check out pictures from Tune in the World on page 8.

## RARS Officers

**President:**

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# The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

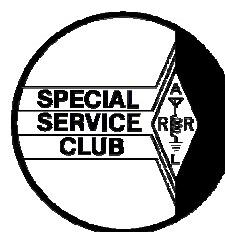
The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS website (RARS.org).



## The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org). Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.



Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those

of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

**Editor:**

**Courtney Enzor**

**KI4HOS**

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# President's Corner

## Column by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, RARS President

I sense excitement in the air surrounding amateur radio. After the code requirement was dropped from license requirements, many entered the hobby with enthusiasm and many more upgraded.

The Dayton Hamvention showcased many of the latest advances in the technical aspects of the hobby, but there were plenty of examples of the "tried and true" equipment to be seen in the flea market. Operators were ready to discuss the pros and cons of both types.

The Huntsville Hamfest, also the ARRL National Convention, was alive with the same enthusiasm. The large ARRL Expo, and the many forums, covered just about every aspect of the hobby. Once again, the manufacturers presented their lines for everyone to see, handle and inquire about.

What can we do to keep this excitement alive in our area?

- Listen to the ham frequencies and find out what your fellow operators are doing.
- Encourage new and old hams alike with positive comments regarding our hobby.
- Support hamfests – the place for socializing, purchasing, and observation.
- Help with communications at public service events.
- Attend club meetings.
- Participate in Field Day.

### RARS General Meeting

**Date:** First Tuesday of each month

**Location:** Forest Hills Baptist Church  
201 Dixie Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27607

**Time:** People begin arriving at 7 pm.  
The meeting officially starts  
at 7:30 pm.

If we all do our part, amateur  
radio will be around for a  
long time to come.

### RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for  
the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS  
members, non-members, friends, and family —  
feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in  
Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

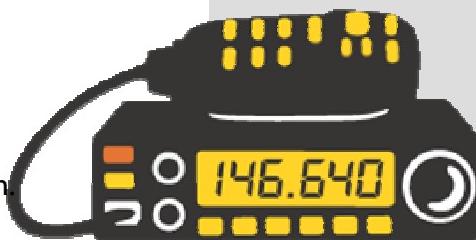
## RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



### VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for more information.

## Welcome New RARS Members!

Chuck Mays WB4TNC  
Lem Kornegay KI4YXS  
Philip Cunningham

Bob Chew III KI4YXM  
Jack Albright KI4YXK  
KI4ZBZ

## Hamfest Calendar

September 1-2	Shelby "The Granddaddy of them All" Fest Shelby, NC
September 15-16	Roanoke Div. & Tidewater Radio Convention Virginia Beach, VA
October 6	York County ARS Rock Hill, SC
October 14	Maysville Hamfest Maysville, NC
November 10	Myrtle Beach Hamfest Myrtle Beach, SC

Dates courtesy of SERA Repeater Journal and other sources. If you would like your even listed in the Exciter, please contact the Editor.

## September Birthdays

Wilbur	WD4RDT	9/3
Andy	KD4FHF	9/4
Mary Jo	K4MJL	9/5
Lou	K4BYN	9/7
John	N4YRB	9/12
Sam	NC4SJ	9/13
Ray	KF4AIB	9/14
Nick	W1GYF	9/16
Ken	N4ZBB	9/18
Ken	ND7N	9/20
Bob	KI4VTA	9/20
Rod	KI4LSN	9/20
Bob	KS4CB	9/24
Justin	KI4WAF	9/25

## July 2007 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net  
Check-ins: 430  
Traffic: 37/33  
Minutes: 655  
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets  
Check-ins: 55  
Minutes: 420  
Sessions: 9

## Upcoming RARS Programs

September: Advanced SKYWARN  
Spotter Training

## Expect to Hear Some New Technicians on the Air from the RARS Class!

### Article by Virginia Enzor NC4VA, RARS Education Director

The early morning of July 14th was hot, sultry, and humid, but 24 folks, eager to get their entry ham licenses, came out to First Alliance Church, site of the summer RARS Technician License preparation class. Ages ranged from 7-years-old to "never too old to learn." The site was ideal and drew a number of participants from central and northern Wake County. Thanks go to Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX for arranging the location.

The team of instructors included Extra Class licensees Dick Orander KD4ISC and Mike Murphy WA4BPJ. A quick word about our instructors – Dick Orander has served as a ham instructor for approximately 10 years. In addition, Dick also currently serves as RARS secretary, a net control for the RARS 2 Meter Net on Thursday nights, and the RARS unofficial Public Service Coordinator. Mike Murphy brings 30+ years of teaching experience to the RARS team. Mike hosts the Sunday night RARS ARRL News Hour on the 146.64 repeater. His first love is Field Day, and he also enjoys antenna design and construction.

The class met for three sessions, July 14, 28 and August 11, from 9am-noon. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> class session, Virginia Enzor NC4VA operated a VHF station, providing the opportunity for a number of class participants to get on the air as third party traffic. Randy Bittle KE4PNT responded to the call to engage each one in a lively QSO.

The RARS VE team held an exam session on the last session date at 1pm. Eighteen folks walked away with a CSCE and a smile, anxiously awaiting for their names to appear in the FCC database.



Above: James I. Peacock and nine-year-old Davis Peacock both earn their Technician License!

Two class graduates extended their family ham radio heritage. James I. Peacock and his nine-year-old son Davis Peacock of Raleigh both earned their Technician Class ticket. Young Davis represents the 4<sup>th</sup> generation ham in his family, his great-grandfather James Peacock, now a silent key, having started the tradition.

This particular class was dedicated to the memory of former RARS President Dick Bitner W8HYD. Thanks to a generous donation from the Dick Bitner W8HYD Benevolent Fund, seven students under 18 years of age received a complimentary instruction manual and one VE test session.



Above: RARS Technician Class participant Sarah Bragg enjoys talking as third party traffic with KE4PNT during a class break.

Congratulations to all our new hams! We look forward to hearing them on the radio often!

## **“I Can’t Afford to Join the ARRL!”**



**Article by Sherri Brower W4STB  
Southern Florida Section Manager &  
Chairman, ARRL Public Relations  
Committee**

Most of us manage to afford things that last a lot less time than a year's membership to an important organization. Basic membership in the ARRL is \$39.00 per year. It's about twice the amount of one year's dues for a local radio club. It's about average for other national organizations. It's less than one cup of coffee per week for a year, less than a month of cable television service, and less than most monthly cell phone bills.

It's not the "afford" that we should be concerned about. Rather it's the value for that \$39.00.

What do you get for the dues? You get a full year's membership, a monthly magazine, e-mail newsletters delivered straight to your inbox, a package of services that you can personally use, a cadre of volunteers in your local area to assist you with a variety of amateur radio matters and activities, a voice in Congress, specialists at Headquarters, and much more.

When you pay the yearly dues you can often choose a gift of a publication or you can pay through your local club. Did know that the local affiliated club can retain a portion of the dues to use in your local area? The club can keep \$15.00 for a new member and \$2.00 for each renewal application.

The ARRL is an association of amateur radio enthusiasts joined together by a common interest and a voice -- a voice that protects our frequencies and provides the insurance for us to remain active on the radio. Other organizations-- labor, farmers, merchants, hobbyists, companies -- join together to increase their effectiveness. Why not hams?

ARRL -- a great value. Join TODAY.

# Public Service Opportunities

## MS Bike Tour

The MS Bike Tour (formerly the MS150) will take place on the weekend of September 8 – 9. The event will again be held in New Bern, NC. We've been asked to provide communications support for the more than 1000 riders (1800 are anticipated) who will ride on 30-, 75-, and 100-mile courses each day. All are raising money to support the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Bruce Arnold N8UTY from New Bern is coordinating hams for this event. Please drop him an email at [brucen8uty@gmail.com](mailto:brucen8uty@gmail.com) and place MS BIKE TOUR in the subject line. Please copy me ([kd4isc@arrl.net](mailto:kd4isc@arrl.net)) on this email, so that I can keep track of the local hams participating. Let Bruce know of any particular radio jobs you are interested in (SAG vehicle, rest stop, shadow) as well as any 2 meter and/or 440 radio equipment you have. Also let him know if you have any First Aid/CPR certifications.

This year we must all officially register with the MS Society. This can be done at [http://bikenct.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=5520](http://bikenct.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=5520).

The registration process for volunteers will have you sign up for a \$100 fundraising goal. You will not be expected or required to raise money for this event. Check the "Ham Radio" box on the volunteer job page.

Hotel accommodations are tight. Check out <http://www.visitnewbern.com/accommodations.htm> for a list of hotels. Don't trust the online reservation systems; rooms have been blocked out for MS Bike Tour participants and all appear full — most actually are. Havelock may be your best alternate location. Call hotels directly and mention that you're with the event (this will give you access to any available rooms blocked out for the MS Bike Tour, as well as any special rates that are available). Camping is available at the park located near the convention center.

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## The City of Oaks Marathon

The City of Oaks Marathon will be held on November 4th in the Raleigh area.

Hams are needed to provide communications support for this event. Details for the marathon can be found at <http://www.cityofoaksmarathon.com/>.

Bill Cole KG4CXY with the Carolina Helping Hams is coordinating the ham radio effort. Please contact him via the Helping Hams website (<http://www.hampublicservice.org/>) to volunteer.

# Tune in the World



Clockwise from top left: Gary Pearce KN4AQ teaches new ham Davis Peacock KI4YXX how to program an HT. Gene Armistead AI4GV picks up an RTTY-based DX. Sam Freeze KI4FUD served as a roving cameraman to assist his father, Mark Freeze KD4KSE, demonstrate ATV. "Wow!" to Gary Pearce's mobile installations. Chuck Littlewood K4HF and Hank Montgomery K4HM fielded HF station questions. Mark Freeze WD4KSE explains ATV to event goers. Gary Pearce KN4AQ teaches new ham Davis Peacock KI4YXX hot to program his HT.

Clockwise from top left: Jack Albright discovered his new call sign, KI4YXK, with the help of Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX. Courtney Enzor KI4HOS greets people at the event. John Mayfield WA9SXL demonstrates his 10-meter station. Bill Cole KG4CXY shares information about public service opportunities with a new ham. Max Bloodworth KO4TV displayed some highlights of his QSL collection. With assistance from David Crawford KF4VXJ, Greg Davis KI4YXP makes his first radio contact with Robert Pierpoint KG4BDX.



# Tune in the World

# General Meeting - August 2007

## Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for August 2007

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on August 7, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Greg Seamster KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There are 180 RARS members. He reminded the group that it is membership renewal time and that dues can be paid in person, by mail or via the RARS website.

The following guests were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: Steve Kroeger, Bob Chapman NC1X, Bob Cheu, and Paul Jarmul.

### Announcements:

- The next RARS dinner will be on Tuesday, August 14 at 6:30pm at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue. All are invited to attend.
- Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. All are invited to attend.
- RARS members have access to the RARS email list. Visit the club's webpage ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)) to sign up.
- Former RARS member Woody Winstead KJ4SO became a silent key on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please keep his family in your thoughts.
- Hamfest: CFARS on August 11 near Fayetteville, Shelby Hamfest during Labor Day weekend (Friday – Sunday), Virginia Beach on September 15-16.
- The MS Bike Tour will be held in New Bern again this year on September 8 and 9.
- The Technician class organized by Virginia Enzor NC4VA is well underway. There are approximately 25 students studying for their licenses. Selene thanked Virginia and all those involved with the class.

Dick Orander KD4ISC read the names of the hams who helped out with the July 4<sup>th</sup> Firecracker 100K Bike Event in Cary. He thanked them for taking time out of their holiday to provide communications support for over 1000 bike riders who raised money for the MS Society. He then announced that hams are still needed for the September 8 and 9 MS Tour that will be held in New Bern. Bruce Arnold N8UTY is coordinating hams for this event. Those interested should visit the RARS website

# General Meeting - August 2007

([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)) for details on signing up. There will also be a training session for local hams participating in the Tour on Wednesday, August 29 at 7:30pm at the MS Society office in Raleigh. The Raleigh City of Oaks Marathon will be held on November 4. Bill Cole KG4CXY of the Carolina Helping Hams is organizing communications support for this event. Visit [www.hampublicservice.org](http://www.hampublicservice.org) for more information and to sign up. Dick also announced that congratulations are in order for Eric Wittich KE4CTW and his wife Natalie on the birth of their daughter Regan Elizabeth. Jeff AC4ZO and Bobbie KD4ZVW are proud grandparents.

Rod Thomson KI4LSN announced there will be local activity again for this year's Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). He is recruiting volunteers to help teach the amateur radio merit badge and set up stations for scouts to make radio contacts. The event will be held in Apex on Saturday, October 20 from 8am until 5pm.

Chuck announced that the third quarter meeting of the Piedmont Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association will meet on September 8 at McCalls BBQ in Clayton at 11:30am. After lunch, the program will be a video on the 2007 Dayton Hamvention by Gary Pearce KN4AQ. On-the-air meetings for the group are held on Saturday mornings at 8:45am on 3825 KHz.

Selene KG4RMT announced that the September meeting will be an Advanced SKY-WARN Spotter training session. The meeting will require an early, 7pm, start time.

Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ introduced Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL who presented the evening's program on batteries and emergency power.

Door prizes were won by Dave Thomas K4SAN, Arthur Katz W2JNW and Rod Thomson KI4LSN.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Attendance: 54

Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC, RARS Secretary



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.



# Amateur Radio Nets

The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to [www.voipwx.net](http://www.voipwx.net).

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit [www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net).



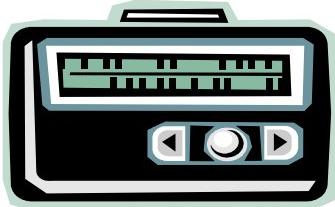
## CAROLINA 440 UHF Link System

[www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net)

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

### Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at [www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net](http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net).

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

September 18—"Radar Displays with Google Earth" with Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock.

September 25—"CoCoRaHS" with State Climatologist Dr. Ryan Boyles. CoCoRaHS, an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network, is a non-profit, community-based network of volunteers who measure and map precipitation.



### The Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2

**Meter Net** meets at 9 pm every Sunday evening on the 145.13 repeater (tone 82.5). All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.



MERCURY  
AMATEUR  
RADIO  
ASSOCIATION

# MARA

The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. [www.wakeares.org](http://www.wakeares.org).

The RARS  
**Exciter**

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Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

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Despite the early hour, the RARS Technician Licensure  
Class was well attended by enthusiastic students!